

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 3-4, 6-7, and 9-10 have been allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 11-14 are now pending.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sjodin U.S. Patent No. 4,179,707 (Sjodin).

Each of the independent claims has been amended to require a controller that is arranged to control a code reader for performing an optical scan of the detection object and background panel, wherein the detection object is arranged between the background panel and a scanning source. The claims further require a code pattern to be present on the detection object or background panel, such that the controller controls the code reader to perform the optical scan to read information encoded in the code pattern and to automatically detect the size of the detection object, on the basis of signals obtained by electrically converting scanning light of the optical scan reflected from the background panel and the detection object. Sjodin neither discloses nor suggests the combination of these features.

Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sjodin and further in view of Pope et al U.S. Patent No. 4,852,029 (Pope). Claim 2, having been amended similarly to claim 1 as discussed above, also distinguishes Sjodin. Further, Pope does not add features pertaining to the optical scan of the background panel and code pattern, as claimed. Claim 5 is dependent from claim 2. Therefore, claims 2 and 5 patentably define over the prior art.

New claims 11-14 are also patentably distinguishable from the prior art. Claim 11 recites a background panel having a mark as a standard, an optical scanning reader for performing an optical scan of the detection object and background panel, and a controller arranged to control the optical scanning reader to read information encoded in a code pattern arranged along a length direction of the detection object and to automatically detect the size of the detection object, on the basis of signals obtained by electrically converting scanning light of the optical scan reflected from the background panel and detection object.

Claim 12 is limited by a barcode reader for performing the optical scan, wherein the controller controls the barcode reader to read information encoded in a barcode pattern on the

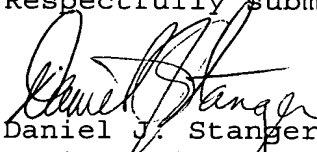
background panel arranged along a length direction of the detection object, and to automatically detect the size of the detection object, based on the scan.

Claim 13 more broadly recites the pattern arranged on the detection object, wherein a controller is arranged to control an optical scanning reader to read information encoded in the code pattern and to automatically detect the size of the detection object based on the optical scan.

Finally, claim 14 recites the background panel having the standard mark and a barcode pattern arranged along a length direction of the detection object, a barcode reader for performing an optical scan of the object and background panel, and a controller arranged to control the barcode reader to read information encoded in the barcode pattern and to automatically detect the size of the detection object, based on signals obtained by the optical scan.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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